IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) Method of transmitting blocks of data, in which, for at least one of [[said]] the blocks of data, at least one parameter associated with [[this]] the at least one block of data is transmitted, [[said]] the parameter representing the relative importance of the block of data associated with [[this]] the parameter within [[the]] a message transmitted by all the blocks of data, ~~characterised in that~~ and in which the data [[are]] is coded by ~~means of~~ a channel coding method which does not take into account [[said]] the parameter.

2. (Currently Amended) Method of decoding blocks of data, for which a signal containing at least one parameter associated with at least one of ~~these~~ the blocks of data has been transmitted, [[said]] the parameter representing the relative importance of the block of data associated with [[this]] the parameter within [[the]] a message transmitted by all the blocks of data, ~~characterised in that~~ in which the data [[have]] has been coded by ~~means of~~ a channel coding method which does not take into account [[said]] the parameter, ~~and in that~~ comprising the steps of:

~~said~~ extracting the parameter ~~is extracted~~ from the signal containing [[it,]] the parameter; and

~~said~~ using the parameter ~~is used~~ as a guide for [[the]] a decoder so that data judged to be more important than ~~others~~ other data may benefit from a channel decoding of higher quality.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~Claim 1 or~~ Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ in which said channel decoding is an iterative decoding.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ in which the blocks of data are transmitted in order of decreasing importance and, where the parameter associated with a block of data newly received has not been able to be decoded correctly, a parameter identical to the [[one]] parameter associated with [[the]] a previous block of data is allocated to [[this]] the new block of data.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~, in which, for said transmission, a signal ~~consisting of~~ comprising bursts of bits is transmitted, each burst containing ~~on the one hand~~ one or more of [[said]] the blocks of data either complete or fragmented over several successive bursts, and ~~on the other hand~~ the parameter associated with the most important data appearing in [[the]] a following burst.

6. (Currently Amended) Method of transmitting blocks of data which have been coded by ~~means of~~ a channel coding method compatible with an iterative decoding, ~~characterised in that,~~ in which, for at least one of [[said]] the blocks of data, at least one parameter [[(IN)]] associated with ~~this~~ the at least one block of data is transmitted, [[said]] the parameter [[(IN)]] indicating [[the]] a minimum number of iterations to be applied by an iterative [[coder]] decoder during the decoding of the block of data associated with [[this]] the parameter [[(IN)]].

7. (Currently Amended) Method of decoding blocks of data which have been coded by ~~means of~~ a channel coding method compatible with an iterative decoding, ~~characterised in that,~~ in which a signal containing at least one parameter [[(IN)]] associated with a block of data ~~having~~ has been transmitted for at least one of [[these]] the blocks of data, comprising the steps of:

~~- said~~ extracting the parameter ~~(IN) is extracted~~ from the signal containing [[it,]] the parameter; and

~~- said~~ using the parameter ~~(IN) is used~~ as an indicator of [[the]] a minimum number of iterations applied by the iterative decoder to the block of data associated with [[its]] the parameter [[(IN)]].

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 6 or Claim 7, ~~characterised in that the~~ in which a value of [[said]] the parameter is the same for all the blocks of data forming part of the same message.

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7, ~~characterised in that said~~ in which the parameter is transmitted over the same channel as the associated data.

10. (Currently Amended) Method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7, ~~characterised in that said~~ in which the parameter ~~on the one hand~~ and the associated data ~~on the other hand~~ are transmitted over separate channels.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7, ~~characterised in that said~~ in which the parameter undergoes the same channel coding as the associated data.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7, ~~characterised in that said~~ in which the parameter undergoes no channel coding, or undergoes a channel coding different from the [[one]] channel coding undergone by the associated data.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7, ~~characterised in that~~ in which there are transmitted firstly [[the]] values of parameters corresponding to all the blocks of data in the same message and secondly ~~these~~ the blocks of data.

14. (Currently Amended) Device for processing [[(46)]] blocks of data intended to be transmitted by means of a method according to Claim 1 or Claim 6, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising:

[[-]] means ~~(13a, 20)~~ for obtaining [[said]] the parameter; [[,]] and

[[-]] means [[(30)]] for creating a link between ~~this~~ the parameter and the associated block of data with a view to the transmission of [[this]] the parameter and [[this]] the block of data.

15. (Currently Amended) Device for assisting with the decoding [[(331)]] of blocks of data which have been transmitted by ~~means of~~ a method according to Claim 1 or Claim 6, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising:

[[-]] means [[(310)]] for extracting [[said]] the parameter from the signal containing [[it,]] the parameter; and

[[-]] means [[(320)]] for, on the basis of [[said]] the parameter, assisting a decoder responsible for decoding [[said]] the blocks of data.

16. (Currently Amended) Device for coding [[(47)]] blocks of data, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising:

[[-]] at least one device for processing blocks of data according to Claim 14; [[,]] and

[[-]] at least one channel coder [[(40)]].

17. (Currently Amended) Device for decoding [[(332)]] blocks of data, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising:

[[-]] at least one channel decoder; ~~(300),~~ and

[[-]] at least one device for assisting with decoding according to Claim 15.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for transmitting coded digital signals [[(48)]], ~~characterised in that it includes~~ comprising a coding device according to Claim 16, and ~~in that it has~~ means [[(45)]] for transmitting [[said]] the blocks of coded data and [[said]] the parameters.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for receiving coded digital signals [[(333)]], ~~characterised in that it includes~~ comprising a decoding device according to Claim 17, and ~~in that it has~~ means [[(60)]] for receiving [[said]] the blocks of coded data and [[said]] the parameters.

20. (Currently Amended) Telecommunications network, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ comprising at least one apparatus according to Claim 18 ~~or Claim 19~~.

21. (Currently Amended) Data storage means which can be read by a computer or microprocessor storing instructions of a computer program~~, characterised in~~

that ~~it makes it possible~~ is executable to ~~implement~~ perform a method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7.

22. (Currently Amended) Data storage means which is removable, partially or totally, and which can be read by a computer and/or microprocessor storing instructions of a computer program~~, characterised in~~ that ~~it allows the implementation of~~ is executable to perform a method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7.

23. (Currently Amended) Computer program, containing instructions such that, when said program controls a programmable data processing device, said instructions ~~mean that~~ cause said data processing device ~~implements~~ to perform a method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7.